

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication network comprising a user equipment, an access network and a plurality of core networks, wherein said user equipment is ~~capable of being configured to be~~ simultaneously in communication with at least two of said plurality of core networks, said communication network comprising:

means for communicating separate ciphering parameters to said access network ~~in from~~ said at least two of said core networks; and

~~said access network comprising~~ means for selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering the communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks in said access network.

2. (Previously Amended) A communication network according to claim 1, further comprising

means for ciphering said communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks with said selected one of said separate ciphering parameters.

3. (Previously Amended) A communication network according to claim 1 wherein said ciphering parameter comprises at least one of a ciphering key or a ciphering algorithm.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of ciphering in a communication network comprising: a user equipment, an access network and a plurality of core networks, wherein said user equipment is ~~capable of being~~ configured to be simultaneously in communication with at least two of said plurality of core networks, said method comprising:

communicating separate ciphering parameters to said access network from said at least two of said plurality of core networks; and

selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks.

5. (Previously Amended) A method of ciphering according to claim 4 further comprising

ciphering said communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks with said selected one of said separate ciphering parameters.

6. (Previously Amended) A method of ciphering according to claim 4, wherein said ciphering parameter comprises at least one of a ciphering key or a ciphering algorithm.

7. (Previously Amended) A method of ciphering according to claim 4, wherein said access network comprises a plurality of entities dedicated for managing the ciphering of communications with user equipments located in a geographical area allocated to said respective entities,

and that when said user equipment moves from a geographical area allocated to a first ciphering managing entity to a geographical area allocated to a second ciphering managing entity, said first ciphering managing entity communicates used ciphering parameters to said second ciphering managing entity by signaling over said at least two of said plurality of core networks.

8. (Currently Amended) An access network connected to a plurality of core networks, and to a user equipment, wherein said user equipment is ~~capable of being configured to be~~ simultaneously in communication with at least two of said plurality of core networks over said access network, said access network comprising

means for receiving separate ciphering parameters from said core networks;

and

means for selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering ~~the~~ communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks.

9. (New) An access network element for an access network connected to a plurality of core networks and to a user equipment configured to be simultaneously in communication with at least two of said plurality of core networks over said access network, said access network element comprising:

means for receiving separate ciphering parameters from said core networks;

and

means for selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of core networks.

10. (New) An access network element according to claim 9, further comprising:
means for ciphering said communications between said user equipment and
said at least two of said plurality of core networks with said selected one of said separate
ciphering parameters.
11. (New) An access network element according to claim 10, wherein said
communications are signaling messages.
12. (New) An access network element according to claim 10, wherein said
communications comprise signaling messages and user data.
13. (New) An access network element according to claim 9, wherein said ciphering
parameter comprises at least one of a ciphering key or a ciphering algorithm.
14. (New) An access network element according to claim 9, further comprising a radio
network controller.
15. (New) A ciphering controller for an access network connected to a plurality of
core networks and to a user equipment configured to be simultaneously in communication
with at least two of said plurality of core networks over said access network, said
ciphering controller comprising:
means for receiving separate ciphering parameters from said core networks; and
means for selecting one of said separate ciphering parameters for ciphering
communications between said user equipment and said at least two of said plurality of
core networks.
16. (New) A ciphering controller according to claim 15, further comprising:
means for ciphering said communications between said user equipment and said at
least two of said plurality of core networks with said selected one of said separate
ciphering parameters.
17. (New) A ciphering controller according to claim 16, wherein said communications
are signaling messages.
18. (New) A ciphering controller according to claim 16, wherein said communications
comprise signaling messages and user data.
19. (New) A ciphering controller according to claim 15, wherein said ciphering
parameter comprises at least one of a ciphering key or a ciphering algorithm.
20. (New) A communication network according to claim 2, wherein said
communications are signaling messages.

21. (New) A communication network according to claim 2, wherein said communications comprise signaling messages and user data.
22. (New) A method of ciphering according to claim 5, wherein said communications are signaling messages.
23. (New) A method of ciphering according to claim 5, wherein said communications comprise signaling messages and user data.